

## ABSTRACT

A computer-implemented method and apparatus of searching a plurality of queries against at least one database containing a plurality of records. The plurality of queries is partitioned into a set of smaller subsets of queries. The at least one database is portioned into a set of smaller subdatabases. Searching tasks to be performed are designated by associating each of said subsets of queries with one or more of said subdatabases, assigning each searching task to one of a group of computers operating in parallel, wherein each member of the group of computers operating in parallel has at least one searching task assigned thereto, and executing at least some of the assigned searching tasks using the group of computers operating in parallel. At least one of the searching tasks is further divided into two or more smaller searching tasks, and the two or more smaller tasks are designated as related tasks on a virtual shared memory bulletin board. Search results are collected from the executed searching tasks and a unified search result is generated in accordance with the collected search results. The partitioning of the queries and the partitioning of the database are done by one or more members of the group of computers operating in parallel.